

## Migratory Lands Management (California)

### **Investment:**

- Transportation, hydrography and parcels
- Orthoimagery
- Legal descriptions of Migratory Lands and Banks

### **Benefits:**

- Better mapping of privately owned lands with migratory designated protections
- Ability to track current landowners on protected and adjacent lands
- Improved management of migratory protected areas

### **Beneficiary:**

- Migratory habitat and protection areas
- California Fish and Game

### **Data Used:**

- Locally created parcel maps hosted by the state to support cross county boundary data management
- Basemap data including hydrography, orthoimagery, hydrography and transportation.

### **Description:**

The California Fish and Game Code has several provisions for the protection of wildland and wildlife habitat such as wetlands, that include options for purchasing or leasing lands that are essential for maintaining lands or connectivity of lands supporting wildland needs. One example of a protected species is the Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). The program description is taken from (<http://www.bankswallows.org/>)

As a protected species, there are incentive programs and technical assistance available to help landowners who want to protect riparian habitat, which includes Bank Swallow habitat. Bank Swallows are a California “threatened” species under the California Endangered Species Act and federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The Bank Swallow population on the Sacramento River has declined since original surveys were conducted in 1985, by about 40% at the lowest count. Because the Bank Swallow excavates burrows into river banks to nest and raise young, the main reasons for its population decline are measures that halt or decrease bank erosion. These include bank stabilization measures such as staging or applying rock (rubble or riprap) and constructing spur



Figure 1 - Bank Swallow - Migratory Bird

dikes. Riprap applied to exposed banks by the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Water Resources, and private property owners has armored approximately 50% of erodible bank in the Bank Swallow breeding area from Red Bluff to Colusa on the Sacramento River. Currently, State and federal stabilization projects are being assessed for need, and alternative measures to rock are being evaluated to help protect Bank Swallow habitat. Incentive programs exist that encourage landowners to protect Bank Swallow nesting habitat on private lands.

The parcel data combined with the habitat description and mapping is an essential component for the California Fish and Game Biographic Data Branch/Habitat Conservation Division to effectively manage this program. The parcel data is used to identify and map existing agreements and to identify landowners who may qualify for incentive programs.